THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to Delhi Police 803 persons were arrested during this period under the NDPS Act.

(b) Quantity of heroin/smack seized by Delhi Police is 172.528 Kgs. The value of heroin/smack seized varies according to place of sale and percentage of purity: hence, it cannot be accurately estimated.

(c) The following steps have been taken:—

Some active drug traffickers operating inter-State and also internationally have been identified; A constant watch is being maintained on them and on the drug smugglers/pedlars reportedly receiving consignments from the traffickers. Extra efforts have been made by the Delhi Police through police stations, special staff, the Anti-Narcotics Cells of Crime and Vigilance Branches to apprehend drug pedlars/traffickers/smugglers and to make seizures. Close liaison is being maintained with other enforcement agencies. The Government have recently issued an ordinance called "Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance, 1988". Effective use of the same is being made to curb such activities.

Forest cover

139. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the forest coverage in India at the beginning of each Five Year Plan and what it is at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite the various laws and different steps taken by Government, denudation of forest areas and hills continues resulting in serious environmental imbalances; and

(c) whether Government have taken a fresh look towards the seriousness of the problem and if so, what is Government's latest thinking in the matter and the action plan prepared to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The total area under forests in the country at the beginning of each Five Year Plan and during 1985-86 is given in the statement attached. (See below).

(b) Studies carried out by the National Remote sensing Agency through satellite imagery have shown that the average annual rate of depletion of forest cover during the period 1972—75 to 1980—82 was approximately 1.3. million hectares.

(c) The problem is viewed with seriousness and the following major initiatives have been taken to conserve forests:—

1. Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.

2. A Centrally sponsored scheme has been started to help the states to develop infrastructure for enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forests.

3. Alternative sources of energy are being developed to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

4. Wood is being substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers and building constructions.

5. Import policy for forest products has been liberalised

6. Fiscal incentives are given to industries for wood substitution.

7. Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.

8. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:

(i) To avoid clear felling of natural forests and where such felling are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) To set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

Statement

Total Forest Area at the beginning of each Five Year Plan

Year	Total forest area (in million ha.)
1950-51	71.80
1955-56	71 08
1960-61	68.98
1968-69	75.00
1973-74	75.77
1979-80	74 61
1985-86	75 29

सरकारी व्यय में किफायत

140. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय वित्त मंत्री ने हाल ही में केबिनेट सचिव की अध्यक्षता में एक कमेटी का गठन किया है जो विभिन्न मंत्रालयों द्वारा वर्ष 1989-90 के दौरान किये जाने वाले व्यय में कटौती प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत करेगी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त समिति अपना प्रस्ताव कब तक प्रस्तुत कर देगी;

(ग) क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने सभी केन्द्रीय मंत्रालयों को इस आशय के निदेश जारी किए हैं कि वे अपने व्यय में 5 से 10 प्रतिशत तक की कटौती करे; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उन मंत्रालयों के नाम क्या हैं जिन्होंने तदनुसार अपने व्यय में कटौती की है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में व्यय विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री वी० के० गदवी) : (क) वर्ष 1988–89 में समग्र बजटीय स्थिति में किसी गिरावट से बचने के लिए और व्यय को नियंत्रित करने के लिए उपाय सुझाने के लिए तथा ऐसी सिफारिशें करने के वास्ते जिनसे 1989–90 में व्यय को नियंत्रित करने में मदद मिले, सरकार ने मंत्रीमंडल सचिव की अध्यक्षता में सचिवों की एक समिति गठित की है ।

(ख) इस समिति द्वारा किया गया विचारविमर्श सरकार द्वारा लिए जाने वाले निर्णय की आंतरिक प्रक्रिया का एक हिस्सा है ।

(ग) और (घ) मंत्रालयों को हिदायतें दी गई हैं कि वे खर्च में अधिक से अधिक किफायत बरतें और जहां तक सम्भव हो अतिरिक्त आवश्यकताओं को बजट व्यवस्थाओं के अन्दर ही पूरा करें ।